CHAPTER I.

AREA AND BOUNDARIES.

1.—AREA.

16. Specially appointed Forest Demarcation and Settlement Officers were employed in the Thána, Khándesh and Ahmednagar Collectorates, and in the leased Dángs during the year, while the Demarcation and Settlement Offices in the Násik, Poona, Sátára, Sholápur, Surat and Panch Maháls Collectorates were in charge of Assistant or Deputy Collectors in addition to their own revenue and magisterial offices and duties. The officers were engaged upon,—

(*a*) the selection of forest lands or waste land, the property of Government or over which Government have proprietary rights: or to the whole or any part of the forest produce to which Government are entitled, in view to their constitution as Reserved or Protected Forests, according to the circumstances and conditions affecting them in parts of the country where forest reservations had still to be made;

(*b*) the acquirement by purchase, or otherwise, of occupied lands included within projects of forest reservation, which have already been approved and sanctioned by Government;

(*c*) the sifting of old forest reservations, in view of the exclusion and disforestation of such portions of them as experience has shown to be unsuitable for continued retention under forest conservancy arrangements;

(*d*) the settlement under the prescriptions of Chapter II of the Forest Act of such lands as have been provisionally notified under Section 4 of that Act, and the undertaking of enquiries into the nature and extent of the rights of Government and of private persons, in or over forest land or waste land to which the provisions of Chapter IV of the Forest Act of Protected Forests are proposed to be applied by notification to issue under Section 28, and the recording of their results;

(*e*) the compilation of records appertaining to the constitution of Reserved and Protected Forests, such as forest registers and maps, showing the location and the boundaries of all legally constituted forest reservations.

17. The changes which have affected the forest areas in the Northern Circle during the year are exhibited in the following statement:—

1	2	3				4				5				6				7				8
No.	Division.	Area on 1st April 1891 according to last year's figures.				Area on 1st April 1891 after rectification of errors in book entries had been made.				Added during the year.				Disforested during the year.				Area on 31st March 1892.				Remarks.
		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		
		Sq. m.	Acres.	Sq. m.	Acres.	Sq. m.	Acres.	Sq. m.	Acres.	Sq. m.	Acres.	Sq. m.	Acres.	Sq. m.	Acres.	Sq. m.	Acres.	Sq. m.	Acres.	Sq. m.	Acres.	
1	North Thána ...	371	599	329	542	371	599	329	542	37	220	...	...	3	409	55	568	405	416	273	614	
2	South Thána ...	325	417	335	405	325	572	335	250	...	...	...	...	64	7	7	478	261	565	327	412	
3	East Khándesh ...	791	299	17	545	791	299	17	545	...	17	...	...	...	181	17	545	791	135	...	...	
4	West Khándesh..	1,092	625	184	124	1,092	625	184	124	9	510	...	...	...	...	6	329	1,102	495	177	435	
5	Násik	1,192	306	...	...	1,192	306	...	...	86	347	...	...	...	64	...	...	1,278	579	...	...	
6	Ahmednagar ...	831	432	11	297	831	432	11	297	2	114	...	...	...	...	...	...	833	546	11	297	
7	Poona	743	237	...	...	743	251	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	89	...	...	743	222	...	...	
8	Sátára	686	67	1	8	686	69	1	8	5	604	...	...	7	468	...	...	684	205	1	8	
9	Sholápur	276	592	...	...	276	592	...	...	...	391	...	...	...	...	...	...	277	343	...	...	
10	Surat	68	145	...	...	68	145	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	68	153	...	...	
11	Dángs	678	320	...	...	678	320	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	678	320	...	...	
12	Kaira	...	39	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	
13	Panch Maháls ...	197	578	114	450	197	578	114	450	...	3	...	...	...	265	114	450	197	316	...	...	
14	Ahmedabad ..	33	442	...	...	33	441	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	441	...	...	
	Total ...	7,290	618	994	451	7,291	148	994	296	142	344	...	...	76	203	202	450	7,357	289	791	486	

18. The year commenced with 7,290 square miles and 618 acres of Reserved, and 994 square miles and 451 acres of Protected Forests. By corrections of errors in the forest registers a net gain of 170 acres has accrued to the total of Reserved Forests, but on the other hand a reduction of 155 acres has occurred

upon the figures of Protected Forests; these corrections are distributed as under:—

No.	Division.	Reserved Forest.	Protected Forest.
		Acres.	Acres.
1	South Thána	+155	—155
2	Poona	+14	.....
3	Sátára	+2	.....
4	Ahmedabad	—1	.....

Thus the corrected area of Reserved Forests on 1st April 1891 was 7,291 square miles and 148 acres, and of Protected Forests 994 square miles and 296 acres as shown in column 4 of the statement.

19. One-hundred and forty-two square miles and 344 acres have been added to the Reserved Forests by notifications published under Section 19 of the Forest Act, but no increase has been made in any district to the Protected Forests. The additions which have been made to the Reserved Forests are distributed thus:—

(1) In the Bassein range 30 acres, and in the Váda range 37 square miles and 190 acres; in North Thána division.

(2) In the Chopda range of East Khándesh division 17 acres.

(3) In the West Khándesh division 6 square miles and 465 acres in the Taloda range, 2 square miles and 70 acres in Nandurbár range, and 615 acres in the Shirpur range.

(4) In the Násik Collectorate 86 square miles and 337 acres were notified as Reserved Forest in the Dindori range on 13th May 1891.

(5) In the Ahmednagar Collectorate—

	Sq. m.	a.	g.
Nagar range	0	21	25
Párner range	0	18	21
Jámkhed range	1	334	39
Shevgaon range	0	119	13
Ráhuri range	0	139	26
Kopargaon range	0	13	24
Sangamner range	0	15	20
Akola range	0	90	37½

(6) In the Poona Collectorate—

	A.	g.
Indápur range	38	16
Haveli range	22	2

(7) In the Sátára division—

	Sq. m.	a.	g.
Jávli range	0	17	8
Khatáv range	5	487	5
Mán range	0	99	33

(8) In the Sholápur Collectorate—

	A.	g.
Sholápur range	138	24
Mádha range	30	37
Karmála range	138	0
Pandharpur range	15	20
Sángola range	55	7
Málsiras range	13	0

(9) In the Surat division 8 acres and 11 gunthás in the Párdi range.

(10) In the Panch Maháls district 3 acres were added in the Hálol range.

20. The statement shows 76 square miles and 203 acres of Reserved Forests, and 202 square miles and 450 acres of Protected Forests, to have been disforested during the year; and these figures are explained as under :—

(1) In the North Thána division 27 gunthas were excluded from the Protected Forest in the Máhim range, as the land was required for use by villagers, and was not suitable for forest conservancy; and in the Váda range 3 square miles, 408 acres and 28½ gunthas of the old Reserved Forest which had been gazetted in March 1879, were disforested under the demarcation scheme, the lands being outside the projected forest boundaries: while from Protected Forests 55 square miles, 567 acres and 30 gunthas were excluded, but of this portion no less than 35 square miles, 136 acres and 37¼ gunthas have been converted into Reserved Forest, so that the actual removals from forest covservancy were limited to 20 square miles, 430 acres and 22¾ gunthas, some of the lands being required for cultivation, and all of it being outside the requirements of forest protection.

(2) In the South Thána division the transfer to the Southern Circle of the Karjat táluka with the Khálápur petha has caused 64 square miles and 7 acres of Reserved, and 7 square miles and 478 acres of Protected Forests, to be entered in column "Disforested," but the disforestation of all this area has not actually occurred: the greater portion of it has merely been transferred from the forest registers of the Northern Circle to those of the Southern Circle; however, 4 square miles, 297 acres and 32¼ gunthas have been entirely removed from the forest reservation in the Karjat táluka, and were done so before this subdivision went over to the Southern Circle.

The Karjat táluka with the Khálápur petha contains an area of 353 square miles, and a population of about 230 to the square mile. It is a rough hilly tract of country, including a considerable stretch of the western slopes of the Sahyádri mountains, which are crossed by the Borghát Road and by the G. I. P. Railway; and the hill sanitarium Mátherán, with its forest-clad plateau 1,500 feet above the sea, and all its wooded eastern slopes. It is divided for purposes of forest administration into two ranges, each corresponding with a revenue subdivision; the forest reservations maintained in which are distributed as under :—

	Reserved.		Protected.	
	Sq. m.	acres.	Sq. m.	acres.
1 Karjat	43	554	5	24
2 Khálápur	31	416	0	628

Seeing that the G. I. P. Railway between Bombay and Poona traverses the Karjat range north and south, with 4 stations within its limits, and that there is a branch line from Karjat by way of Palasdari to Cámpoli in the petha, and that the old Bombay and Poona trunk road passes through Khálápur, climbing the Bor Ghat from Cámpoli, the export trade in timber and other forest produce to supply the demands of the Bombay market on the one side, and the above-ghát markets in the Poona district on the other, is considerable, giving a high commercial value to the forests, which, however, acquire much higher importance from the facts—

(*a*) that they safeguard the sources of the Ulhas river and of its main tributaries, the Dhavri, Chilar and Posri, and numerous smaller feeders; and also of the Pátálganga river; protecting their drainage slopes; both these rivers empty into the harbour of Bombay;

(*b*) that they maintain the agricultural prosperity of a considerable spread of cultivable land in the valleys below them, over 30,000 acres of which are devoted to rice crops, and 45,000 acres to dry crop, by impounding a rainfall of more than 100 inches in the year, and controlling its off-flow down the steep sides of lofty mountains.

(3) East Khándesh Division—

	Reserved Forest.		Protected Forest.	
	Sq. m.	a.	Sq. m.	a.
Jámner range	0	181	0	0
Sávda range	0	0	2	184
Chopda range	0	0	15	361

(4) In the West Khándesh division 6 square miles and 329 acres were excluded from the Protected Forest area in the Shirpur range.

(5) Two hundred and sixty-four acres were disforested in the Godhra range and 1 acre in the Hálol range of the Panch Maháls division-but in the Dohad range 72 square miles and 458 acres, and in the Jhálod range 41 square miles and 632 acres, have been removed from Protected Forests for conversion into Reserved; but their final notification under Section 19 of the Forest Act did not occur during the year.

21. At the close of the year the forest reservations legally constituted under the Forest Act represent the following areas in the Northern Circle :—

	Sq. m.	a.
Reserved Forest	7,357	289
Protected Forest	791	486
Total ...	8,149	135

giving an increase of 66 square miles and 311 acres in Reserved Forest, but on the other hand a reduction of 202 square miles and 605 acres in Protected forest; the net decrease in total area of forest reservations, therefore, has amounted to 136 square miles and 294 acres.

2.—FOREST SETTLEMENTS.

22. Forest demarcation, meaning the selection of lands for forest reservations, has been completed in almost all the Collectorates of the Northern Circle, as will be seen from this statement:—

No.	Collectorate.	Number of Tálukas.	Number of Ta'lukas			Remarks.
			In which demarcation has been completed and sanctioned.	In which demarcation is incomplete.	In which demarcation is not undertaken.	
1	Thána	10	6	(*a*) 2	*2	* Murbád and part of Sháhápur range.
2	Khándesh ...	16	12	(*b*) 4	...	
3	Násik	12	12	...	...	
4	Ahmednagar ...	11	11	...	...	(*a*) Máhim and Dáhánu.
5	Poona	8	8	...	...	(*b*) Taloda, Nandurbár, Pimpalner and Sindkheda.
6	Sátára	11	11	...	...	
7	Sholápur ...	7	7	...	...	
8	Surat, not including the Dángs.	8	5	...	†3	† There are no forests in these tálukas.
9	Panch Maháls ...	3	3	...	...	
10	Ahmedábad ...	7	1	...	‡6	‡ Do. do.
	Total ...	93	76	6	11	

23. In the tálukas wherein the selection of lands for forest reservation has been completed and sanctioned, there still remain to be acquired occupied lands which are contained within the determined forest boundaries of the future, in order to complete the final separation between forests and cultivation, which the approved forest conservancy schemes provide. Most of these lands are held